



# Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Indiana Educators

FROM: Wes Bruce, Assistant Superintendent

SUBJECT: Information about Indiana's Assessment System

DATE: October 17, 2007

On October 5, Governor Daniels and Dr. Reed announced changes in ISTEP+. Although a contract has not been signed, there are details to be worked out, and legislative action is required on some aspects of the system, here is what we can communicate at this time based on the [State Board of Education's Comprehensive Assessment Plan](#) (the Plan) and the Request for Proposals:

### ISTEP+ and New Assessments in Grades 3-8

- ISTEP+ will be administered to all students in grades 3-10 in fall 2008. Grades 3-10 will test in English and math. Grades 5 and 7 also will test in science. The test window is September 15-26, 2008. The GQE will be administered on September 16, 17, and 18.
- In spring 2009, students in Grades 3-8 will take the new spring test, which:
  - Consists of two parts –
    - An open-ended assessment administered in March (the “writing assessment” in the Plan)
    - A multiple choice assessment administered in May (the “progress assessment” in the Plan)
  - Includes the following content areas –
    - English and math in Grades 3-8
    - Science in Grades 5 and 7
    - Social studies in Grades 4, 6, and 8
- The open-ended and multiple choice results will be combined to create a single score for each content area for each student.
  - For 2009, results will be returned in August due to achievement standard (cut score) setting.
  - Beginning in 2010, results will be returned at the end of the school year.

## GQE and New High School Assessments

- Students in the class of 2011 (current Grade 9 students):
  - Will be tested on the GQE in fall 2008.
  - Are the last class held to the current GQE requirement. [Note: GQE Retest opportunities will be available through the 2010-2011 school year.]
- Beginning with the class of 2012 (Grade 9 students in 2008-2009), students must meet the standards tested on the End-of-Course Assessments (ECAs) in Algebra I and English 10 to satisfy the graduation test requirement. Students will take the corresponding ECA when they complete the course.
- Beginning in 2007-2008, students enrolled in Biology I (regardless of grade level) must take the Biology I ECA when they complete the course. Participation in this assessment is an NCLB requirement.

Additional information about these tests and information about other parts of the Assessment Plan will be communicated as soon as details are available. If you have questions, please contact the Division of Assessment at 317-232-9050 or toll free at 1-888-544-7837, option 2.